

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 24, 2008, the Office noted that claims 1-13, 16 and 17 were pending and rejected claims 1-12, and withdrew claims 13, 16 and 17. Claims 1-12, 13, 16 and 17 have been amended, and, thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1-13, 16 and 17 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. Claim 18 is new. No new matter has been added. The Office's restriction is traversed below.

RESTRICTION

The Applicants respectfully request that the restriction as to claims 13, 16 and 17 be withdrawn. The Applicants have amended claim 13 to be dependent from claim 1 and state the tool as in claim 13 is exclusively dedicated for the fabrication and the testing of the transponder. The most important point is that the detachable antenna of the transponder is placed in the same case with the antenna of the tool for reading/writing the data in the transponder. As such the two devices, so linked, place no additional burden on the Office in prosecuting the claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and early and favorable prosecution of all the claims on the merits is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claims 1, 5 and 6 stand objected to for informalities. In particular, the Office asserts that the claims lack antecedent basis and have terms that are indefinite.

The Applicants have amended the claims to overcome the objections of the Office.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Addonisio, U.S. Patent No. 6,839,035. The Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse the rejection with an argument and amendment.

Addonisio discusses an antenna range extender that is placed between the interrogator's antenna and the transponder's (or tag) antenna of a standard radio frequency identification (RFID) system to extend the read/write range of the tag by the interrogator.

The present claims concern the interrogator rather than the transponder. In the present claims, the transponder is passive and comprises only an integrated circuit and an antenna as described in claim 1.

Furthermore, there is no indication that the antenna is electrically connected in a detachable manner to the integrated

circuit as described in claim 1. The solution of soldering the antenna to the circuit board is not considered as a detachable manner.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

It is also submitted that claims 1-13, 16 and 17 continue to be allowable. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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